



Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

2008 Annual Report



2008 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns
Left to right: Dwayne Meisner, Avery Kelly, Justin Redekop, Patrick Button

2008 Highlights

- The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program completed its seventh consecutive year of operations.
- SLIP's alumni expanded to 29 former interns.
- New funding from the University of Regina's International Student Success Office and the Goldman Travel Fund allowed the 2008 interns to travel to Belfast (Northern Ireland), in addition to Ottawa and London (England).
- The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association agreed to provide an on-going sponsorship for SLIP's interns and former interns.
- Rawlco Radio extended its funding of the Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Internship to 2009.

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) completed its seventh consecutive year of operation in 2008. Since its inception and including this year's interns, the Program has had 29 interns who have been mentored by 39 members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Our 2008 Legislative Interns

Applications for 2008 internships were accepted from university students and recent graduates who identified Saskatchewan as their permanent residence. Eleven applications were received, of which two were from Aboriginal applicants. However, both applications from the Aboriginal applicants were subsequently withdrawn – for personal and family reasons in one instance and in order to pursue a law degree in the second instance. Consequently, there were no students available to consider for the Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Internship and this position was not filled in 2008. Rawlco Radio agreed to extend its two-year commitment to this internship into 2009 and applications for the Rawlco internship were accepted for that year.

The 2008 applications were reviewed by the SLIP Selection Committee. The members of the committee were:

- Mr. John Brockelbank, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
- Dr. Kali Deonandan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan
- Ms. Jarita Greyeyes, 2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Intern
- Mr. Ken Pontikes, Director, Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program
- Mr. Greg Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
- Dr. Jeremy Rayner, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Regina
- Mr. Arnold Tusa, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

As a result of this committee's deliberations, four interns were selected to participate in the 2008 program. The 2008 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns were:

- Patrick Button, B. A. Honours (Economics major, Political Science minor), University of Regina
- Avery Kelly, B. A. (Political Science major, Philosophy and Leadership and Dialogue minors), University of Regina
- Dwayne Meisner, B. A. Honours (History major, Religious Studies and Classics minors), University of Regina
- Justin Redekop, B. A. (Political Studies), University of Saskatchewan; Diploma (Architectural Technology), South Alberta Institute of Technology

Biographies of each intern have been attached to this report as Appendix A.

The SLIP selection committee met June 9 and June 10, 2008 to consider applications for the 2009 Program. The committee decided to offer internships to five candidates, which includes one who would become the Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern. More information on the selection of the 2009 interns will be provided in the 2009 SLIP annual report.

Our 2008 Legislative Mentors

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program is fortunate to have the active support of members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who volunteer to serve as mentors to the interns. Four members from the government caucus and four members from the opposition caucus played this role for this year's interns. The members of the Legislative Assembly and their assigned interns were as follows:

<u>Intern</u>	<u>First Term</u>	<u>Second Term</u>
Patrick Button	Greg Ottenbreit (Government) Yorkton	Cam Broten (Opposition) Saskatoon Massey Place
Avery Kelly	Warren McCall (Opposition) Regina Elphinstone-Centre	Jeremy Harrison (Government) Meadow Lake
Dwayne Meisner	Jim Reiter (Government) Rosetown-Elrose	David Forbes (Opposition) Saskatoon Centre
Justin Redekop	Sandra Morin (Opposition) Regina Walsh Acres	Joceline Schriemer (Government) Saskatoon Sutherland

The members of the Legislative Assembly assigned a wide range of activities and responsibilities to the interns. Interns participated in meetings, interacted with constituents, and undertook research in public-policy areas of current concern and interest to their respective members.

In addition to their work within the Legislative Building, interns were able to spend time in their assigned MLA's constituency office. We could like to thank the constituency staff who hosted the interns when they visited these offices.

The 2008 Program

Orientation Component

The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly organized orientation meetings for the interns. Most of these meetings occurred during the first two weeks of the internship. The orientation component of the Program included meetings with Mr. Speaker, staff and officers of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of government and opposition caucuses, and representatives of the news media and of central agencies in executive government. (See Appendix C.)

As part of the orientation, a welcoming reception was held for the interns on January 15, 2008. Individuals involved in the orientation presentations, MLAs, and sponsors were invited to meet the interns. This reception was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP). We would like to thank SIPP's Greg Marchildon (director) and Andrea Geisbauer (director of communications and outreach) for organizing this event for the 2008 interns.

Core Component

The interns began their assignments with four members of the Legislative Assembly (two from the government caucus and two from the opposition caucus) on January 21, 2008. These assignments continued until April 11, 2008. The interns were then reassigned to another four members from the other side of the House (two from the opposition caucus and two from the government caucus). These second-term assignments concluded on July 4, 2008.

During their assignment to private members, the interns were given opportunities to accompany their assigned members to meetings, conferences, and consultations. The interns also visited constituency offices and experienced the work that MLAs do to address the concerns and interests of their constituents. All expenses incurred by the interns in participating in these events and activities were paid by the Program.

The interns attended several meetings of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Interns were also provided with an opportunity by the government caucus to visit and observe the activities within the offices of Cabinet Ministers. During 2008, two of the four interns visited the offices of the following ministers:

Minister of Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming (Patrick Button)
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (Dwayne Meisner)

We would like to thank Raynelle Wilson for making the arrangements for the interns to visit these offices. We would also like to thank the ministers and their staff who participated and who arranged briefings and activities for the interns during this component of the Program.

Academic Component

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program provides the interns with six academic credits towards an undergraduate degree, through its recognition as a course at the University of Saskatchewan (Political Studies 382.6) and at the University of Regina (Political Science 480). Interns are required to register in one of these courses in order to participate in the program. In addition to the course credits, enrolment in these courses provides each intern with student benefits, such as liability insurance, Workers' Compensation coverage, and health benefits.

At the end of the internship, each intern received a grade which recognized his or her participation in the Program. Each intern's final grade was determined by the director, based on the following weighting:

- 55% for a research paper prepared, individually, by each intern and on a topic pertaining to legislative processes, public policy, politics or public administration;
- 15% for a joint report prepared on the four interns' observations and experience during their travel, under the Program's intern development component, to Ottawa, London (England), and Belfast (Northern Ireland);
- 10% based on an evaluation of the intern's activities by his or her assigned Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan;
- 10% for participation, as a group and as volunteers, in a community-based activity; and
- 10% for each intern's completion of administrative duties, assigned annually by the director and pertaining to the Program's core and intern-development operations.

The titles of the research papers prepared by the 2008 interns are as follows:

Patrick Button:	Saskatchewan's Public Debt: Impacts and Strategies for Debt Repayment
Avery Kelly:	Working Together: The Evolution of Duty to Consult Policy in Saskatchewan
Dwayne Meisner:	Question Period in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly
Justin Redekop:	<i>The Public Service Essential Services Act: The Threat of Over-designation and what the Labour Relations Board can do about it</i>

Copies of these papers have been filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Intern Development Component

The intern development component is undertaken through a special fund ("intern development fund"), which is supported by university, corporate, and organizational sponsors, as well as donations from individuals. The fund is managed through the University of Saskatchewan.

The intern development fund is used to support special projects that are identified by the interns to enhance their experience in the Program. These projects include transportation and accommodation costs related to the interns' travel to other jurisdictions, as well as attendance at workshops, conferences, meetings, and consultations with major organizations and with people in leadership positions from various sectors of Saskatchewan. The interns are responsible for arranging all of the logistical arrangements associated with these projects.

An important element of the Program's intern development component involves the interns' comparative study tour to other jurisdictions. The purpose of the tour is to allow the interns to compare legislative and government processes to what they have observed and experienced in Saskatchewan. The tour is organized by the interns and is funded through the intern development fund and through additional fund-raising undertaken by the interns.

In 2008, the intern development fund, as well as travel grants which were provided to the interns who were registered as students of the University of Regina, covered the cost of the interns' travel to Ottawa, to London (England), and to Belfast (Northern Ireland). The interns have filed a report on their tour, a portion of which is attached to this annual report as Appendix D.

The interns also used the intern development fund to cover the costs of attending, as observers, several conventions, conferences and events dealing with politics, public policy, and other current issues facing Saskatchewan. During 2008, all or some of the SLIP interns attended the following conventions, conferences, and events:

- Northern Saskatchewan Economic Summit (Prince Albert)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (Regina)
- Premier's State of the Province Address (Saskatoon)
- Provincial Convention, New Democratic Party (Regina)
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Winter Assembly (Saskatoon)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (Regina)
- Round Table on the Duty to Consult (Saskatoon)
- 2008 National Community Economic Development Conference (Saskatoon)
- Canadian Community Economic Development Network Conference (Saskatoon)
- National Aboriginal Day of Action (Regina)

The interns attended several events sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy. These events included presentations by Dr. John Richards from Simon Fraser University ("Addressing the Education Gap: Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal People in Canada"), Dr. David R. Zussman from the University of Ottawa ("The New Governing Balance: Politicians and Public Servants in Canada"), and Dr. Tom Flanagan from the University of Calgary ("Conservatism: The End of an Era?").

They also had opportunities to meet privately with several community and academic leaders in Saskatchewan:

- His Worship Mayor Don Atchison, City of Saskatoon
- The Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
- Mr. Vern Faulkner, Editor, Prince Albert Daily Herald
- His Worship Mayor Pat Fiacco, City of Regina
- Mr. John Gormley, Host, John Gormley Live, Rawlco Radio
- Ms. Amber Jones, Leader, Green Party of Saskatchewan
- Ms. Pam Leyland, President, Rawlco Radio
- Mr. Andrew North, General Manager, Globe Theatre
- Ms. Linda Nosbush, Social Development Officer, City of Prince Albert
- Mr. Ron Rucks, President, Local 1120, Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada
- His Worship Mayor Jim Scarrow, City of Prince Albert

The interns have provided reports on their attendance at events and their meetings in Appendix G.

Community Services Component

Each year, the Saskatchewan Legislative Interns are required to participate in a community-based activity in a volunteer capacity. In addition to providing personal support, the interns have an opportunity to learn about the objectives, structure, administration, challenges, and successes associated with a community event or organization.

For 2008, the interns chose Globe Theatre in Regina as the community organization to support during their internship. During performances of the play, "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks", they interacted with the patrons of the Theatre by taking tickets, handing out programs, and managing the coat-check. Their participation was organized by Ms. Desiree Vilness, the house manager of Globe Theatre.

The interns also met with Andrew North, the Theatre's general manager, who gave them a tour of the theater. They were able to discuss with Mr. North a number of issues facing this Theatre and other major arts and cultural organizations in Saskatchewan. Some of the issues which were discussed included the role of government in funding the arts and culture and the role of organizations, such as Globe Theatre, in the community. They also discussed how the Theatre was affected by the economic boom in the province and by rising fuel prices.

Administrative Component

The interns performed various administrative duties pertaining to the operation of the program. The following duties were assigned to the 2008 interns:

- Patrick Button: liaising with the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, liaising with interns in other jurisdictions, communicating with former interns, and planning social and community service events.
- Avery Kelly: arranging in-province meetings, conferences, and seminars with organizations and individuals; managing correspondence on behalf of the interns, and assisting with recruiting future interns.

- Dwayne Meisner: managing the Program's website and planning the international trip.
- Justin Redekop: acting as the Program's business manager, pursuing fund-raising opportunities, and assisting with recruiting future interns.

While individual interns assumed lead responsibility for managing a specific administrative duty, all interns assisted their colleagues to ensure that the activities associated with these duties contribute to the Program's overall success.

Funding

Core Program – Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan provides funding for scholarships for four interns (\$14,000 each in 2008), for all expenses incurred by these interns during their mentorship with private members of the Assembly, and for the honorarium and expenses of the Program's director. (If there had been a Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern in 2008, Rawlco Radio would have provided the equivalent funding for a scholarship and for expenses incurred by the fifth intern.)

Intern Development

Additional funding – which is primarily directed to the intern-development component of the Program – is obtained in two ways. Most of this funding is generated through initiatives and requests undertaken by the Director and other supporters of the Program. A second source is realized through requests and fund-raising efforts undertaken by the interns.

Funders have been categorized according to the amount and use of their contributions. The following are the sources of funding for all components of the 2008 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program:

Financial Partners: Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Rawlco Radio

University of Regina

University of Saskatchewan

Corporate Sponsors: The Co-operators Group

Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI)

First Canadian Title

Program Sponsors: Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP)

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)

Intern Sponsors: Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

(Goldman Travel Fund)

International Student Success Office, University of Regina

(International Experience Travel Fund)

University of Regina Students' Union

New Sponsorships in 2008



In previous years, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) has provided the Saskatchewan Legislative Interns with an opportunity to attend its annual conventions. On December 7, 2008, the directors of SUMA formalized the Association's sponsorship into an on-going arrangement. Beginning in 2008 and continuing as a permanent sponsorship into the future, SUMA will be providing:

- A maximum of ten complementary registrations (including all plenary sessions, breakfasts, lunches, and education sessions) for the annual SUMA Convention for past and current legislative interns, and
- One complementary registration for a University faculty member who may wish to attend the Convention with the interns.

When advising SLIP of the directors' decision, Mr. Laurent Mogeot (Executive Director of SUMA) wrote that the Association believes that the interns' attendance at the annual conventions offers:

“. . . an expanded perspective on the challenges and opportunities affecting municipal governments in Saskatchewan. Our Directors see this contribution as a sound investment in the professional development of the young minds who will help shape the future policy framework of our communities. They agree that this initiative must be encouraged and supported on an on-going basis.”

SUMA's on-going sponsorship is an important contribution to the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program.



The 2008 interns who were registered as students of the University of Regina were eligible for funding from two new sources:

- The International Experience Travel Fund of the University of Regina's International Student Success Office provided \$1,000 travel grants to each of the University of Regina's interns (Patrick Button, Avery Kelly, and Dwayne Meisner).
- Through the Office of the Dean of Arts, the Goldman Travel Fund provided a total grant of \$1,800 which was to be applied towards the travel costs of the three University of Regina interns.

These two grants, along with the financial support provided for another year, by the University of Regina Students' Union, the University of Saskatchewan (Office of the President) and the University of Regina (Office of the Dean of Arts), and by the corporate sponsors, allowed the Program to have sufficient funds to offer two international experiences (London and Belfast in the United Kingdom) to all four interns.

Intern-generated Funding

The 2008 interns organized the second steak night for members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and other supporters of SLIP. The funds raised at this event are used by the interns to enhance their experience during their comparative study tour. The money can be used to finance entry to museums, side-tours to significant points of interest, or attendance at cultural or sporting events occurring at the time of their tour.

This year's steak night was held on April 1, 2008 at Bushwakker Brewing Co. Ltd. on Dewdney Avenue in Regina. The event generated a surplus of \$590.00, which the interns used to purchase tickets for the Björk concert in Belfast, to cover the entry fee to the Tower of London, and to attend a musical-theatre production in London.

2007 Financial Statements

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program's statement of revenues and expenses for the period from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, inclusive, has been provided in Appendix B of this report. The Program's finances are managed through four funds – the core program is managed through the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and the intern development fund and Rawlco Aboriginal internship fund components are managed through the University of Saskatchewan. A credit union account has been established to manage the interns' fund-raising activities. During 2007-08, these four components of the Program realized revenues of \$101,699.97 and expenditures of \$101,063.85, for an overall surplus of \$636.02.

The balance sheet for the intern development fund has also been provided in Appendix B. The core component of the Program is fully funded by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and as such, ends each year without a surplus or deficit. The intern development fund has been in existence since the Program began and had an accumulated surplus of \$11,382.32 on September 30, 2008, up from \$10,757.31 a year earlier. The Rawlco Aboriginal internship fund ended its first year with an accumulated surplus of \$1,855.77, the same as the previous year. The interns' fund-raising account ended the year with cash of \$6.01 and a membership share of \$5.00. The combined accumulated surplus for all funds was \$13,249.10 on September 30, 2008; this compares with \$12,613.08 on September 30, 2007.

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Advisory Committee

The program's advisory committee serves to provide a governance framework for the Program. The members of this committee for the 2008 program were:

Mr. Dustin Duncan, Government caucus representative
Ms. Sandra Morin, Opposition caucus representative
Mr. Ken Pontikes, Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program
Mr. Greg Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Professor Jeremy Rayner, University of Regina representative
Professor Don Story, University of Saskatchewan representative
Hon. Don Toth, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly serves as the chair of the committee.

During the 2007-08 fiscal year, the committee did not meet. However, several members of the committee provided advisory support to the Program's director on an individual and issue-specific basis.

Alumni Support and Engagement

With the completion of the 2008 internships, there are 29 former interns ("alumni") who have participated in the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. Over the years following their participation, former interns have been invited to receptions and other public events associated with the Program. Several have participated in the process of selecting future interns, providing orientation and advice to current interns, and generally promoting the program to students and potential sponsors.

An alumni newsletter, known as *Alumni Report*, is published annually by the Program and is distributed to all former interns. It is also posted on SLIP's website.

The purpose of the newsletter, which is currently planned as an annual publication, is to provide an on-going link between former interns and the Program. It will also serve as a useful tool to promote the program to students and potential sponsors.

The preparation of the 2008 *Alumni Report* was coordinated by Patrick Button. This year's newsletter provides information on the 2008 internship, as well as profiles and news about former interns.

Administrative Issues

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program has been established through a memorandum of agreement, signed in 2007, between the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The memorandum formalizes the universities' support for, and participation in, the Program. The agreement articulates the role of the director and the SLIP Advisory Committee, the academic credits provided by both universities to the Program's interns, the provision of liability insurance coverage to the interns, and administration of the Intern Development Fund.

Acknowledgements

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program could not take place without the support and assistance of many individuals. Among the most important are the members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who volunteer to mentor an intern over a three-month period. SLIP is fortunate to have supportive MLAs on both sides of the House who are willing, through their participation, to share their knowledge and experience with the interns.

This year we were fortunate to have more MLAs volunteer to participate in the Program than there were available mentorship positions. Regrettably, several members who offered to participate were not assigned an intern this year. This experience demonstrates how the Program has developed within Saskatchewan's legislative community and how much importance MLAs place on playing a part in the lives of some of the province's future leaders.

In addition to the mentors, we want to thank the politicians; public servants; business, union, and community leaders; and journalists in Saskatchewan, Ottawa, and the United Kingdom who took the time to meet with our interns and to provide their candid insights on current political, public-policy, and administrative issues. We would particularly like to thank the individuals in Belfast, Northern Ireland, who met for the first time with Saskatchewan Legislative Interns. Lists of the people who met with the 2008 interns appear in Appendices C, D, and E of this report.

SLIP would not be possible without the administrative support provided by the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Government and Opposition Caucus Offices, and the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Particular mention needs to be given to the assistance we received from Monique Lovatt of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Alexis Dahl of the Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

We also want to acknowledge the organizational support we received from the Parliamentary Internship Program in Ottawa. In particular we would like to thank Karin Kronstal, 2008 Parliamentary Intern, and JoAnne Cartwright, Program Administrator for the Parliamentary Internship Program, for their assistance in arranging meetings and coordinating the schedule of the Saskatchewan interns while they were in Ottawa.

Jennifer Nelson (Oversees Office, House of Commons) and Selina Bailey (Department of Justice) provided organizational support for the portion of the tour which took place in London. Owen McNulty (External Liaison Office) and Maurice Bodkin (Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister) organized the tour in Belfast. We appreciate the assistance of all of these individuals.

Finally, we thank our 2008 interns – Patrick Button, Avery Kelly, Dwayne Meisner, and Justin Redekop – who participated in the Program in a non-partisan manner and who respected the need to protect the confidentiality of the information they handled. They served as excellent representatives of the Program and of our province during the various meetings and events that they attended in Canada and in the United Kingdom. They have also brought new ideas and perspectives to the management and promotion of the Program which will be carried forward to future years.

Contact Information

Further information about the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, including application procedures, can be obtained from the Program's website at www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship. Also, the Program's Director, Ken Pontikes can be contacted by email at kpontikes@sasktel.net or by mail at:

University of Saskatchewan
Department of Political Studies
Room 283C, Arts Building
9 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5A5

Appendix A

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2008 INTERNS



Patrick Button attended École W. S. Hawrylak Elementary School and Campbell Collegiate in Regina. He graduated from high school with an International Baccalaureate diploma.

While in high school, Patrick served as editor of the school newspaper and participated in a human rights group affiliated with Amnesty International. He volunteered, as part of a group of students, in providing an after-school program for children attending Kitchener Community School. Upon graduation, he was awarded the Lifetouch Scholarship and a Centennial Merit Entrance Scholarship to attend university.

In 2008, Patrick received with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Regina, with high honours in economics and with a minor in political studies. His honours paper used international statistical data to determine if mixed electoral systems encouraged voter turnout.

While at the University of Regina, he was elected to represent students within the Faculty of Arts on the board of directors for the University of Regina Students' Union. He is also a board member of the GBLUR Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, a campus centre that provides services and education for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Patrick has volunteered as an "ambassador" for student recruitment at the University of Regina. He has been the vice/co-president of the Economic Students' Association, where he co-managed a free economics drop-in tutorial centre and organized social events. He also has served as a teaching assistant for the Department of Economics, where he tutored students in economics and assisted with the marking of assignments and exams.

In recognition of his academic record, Patrick was invited into the Golden Key International Honours Society and was included in the Dean's Honours List. He was awarded the Academic Gold Scholarship and the David L. Beattie Memorial Scholarship in Economics.

Patrick has worked as a geographical data analyst with Ducks Unlimited and as a swimming instructor at the University of Regina Aquatic Centre. He has held part-time positions at several food-service businesses in Regina.

In 2006, he was a Legislative Page for the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. He has also participated as a member in the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament.

Following his internship, Patrick began graduate studies at the University of Toronto. He is working towards a Master of Arts degree in economics. He received the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Master's Scholarship, in the amount of \$17,500 to finance his studies. Patrick plans to pursue a PhD degree in economics and eventually to teach at a university.



Avery Kelly was born and raised in Regina, where she graduated from Winston Knoll Collegiate. After working a few years for Scotia McLeod Inc., she began her studies at the University of Regina in 2003.

In 2008, Avery received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in political science and minors in philosophy and in leadership and dialogue. Her course work included traveling for one month in 2007 to the People's Republic of China where she studied that country's environmental crisis and the burgeoning civilian environmental movement. The leadership and dialogue component of her program involved working in the community, including assisting the Mayor's Task Force on Shaping Regina and the Communities of Tomorrow initiative. She has undertaken substantial research in the areas of developing a car co-op for university students and a policy for purchasing sweat-free consumer products.

Avery has been a member of the University of Regina's Golden Key Honour Society. The Society recognizes academic excellence and invites students at the top of their faculties to join.

Avery has served as a volunteer for the Regina Women's Transition House, the Terry Fox Foundation, and the North Central Community Gardens. She has been a member of the Council of Canadians and the Saskatchewan Public Interest Research Group. Avery has also been a member of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), where she volunteers by doing public outreach and education for the Regina chapter. EWB is a non-profit student association which works to alleviate global poverty through access to appropriate technology.

While pursuing her university studies, Avery was employed by Scotia McLeod as an administrative and marketing assistant. She has also worked as a server in local restaurants in Regina.

Avery is an outdoor enthusiast. She particularly enjoys hiking, camping, and biking. She also studies Ashtanga Yoga.

Following her internship, Avery accepted a position as knowledge co-ordinator for the United Way of Regina. Her longer-term goals include pursuing graduate work either in policy or in an interdisciplinary program in fine arts.



Dwayne Meisner was born in Regina, but grew up in Eston. He attended Wordshop Academy, a Christian high school near that community. After graduating from high school, he completed a three-year diploma program in pastoral studies at the Full Gospel Bible College, which is also located in Eston.

Dwayne then moved to Regina, where he worked in several service-industry jobs including a position as a cook at the Regina Inn. While living in the city's downtown core area, he pursued his interest in music, literature, and philosophy, and became deeply acquainted with downtown Regina's community.

In 2001, Dwayne moved to Vancouver where he worked as a sales representative for Hill's Native Art. In addition to analyzing and selling their art, his job involved interviewing and preparing brief biographies of the Aboriginal artists represented by this dealer.

In 2003, Dwayne began his studies at the University of Regina, choosing to major in history and to minor in religious studies and classics. He has been on the dean's honours list for several years and received a number of scholarships and awards. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2008.

Over the last two years, Dwayne has worked as a research assistant for Ken Leyton-Brown in the Department of History at the University of Regina. This has included a project to create interactive digital maps of the ancient Mediterranean, an on-line course in Greek and Roman history, and more recently, researching the legal career of F.W.G. Haultain. He has also worked as a teaching assistant, and actually enjoys grading papers.

Dwayne is a musician and song-writer. He has played guitar for twenty years. He recorded an album with thirteen songs, and participated in recording songs with three fellow musicians.

Having received the Graduate Centennial Merit Scholarship, he returned to the University of Regina in fall 2008 to begin his MA in history. His thesis will concentrate on a set of events that occurred in 186 BC in Rome.



Justin Redekop was born in Herbert, Saskatchewan where he attended elementary and high school. His family operated a farm near this community.

Following high-school graduation, Justin enrolled at the South Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. He received a diploma in architectural technology, specializing in building development.

While living in Calgary, Justin was employed by Davidson Enman Truss. He designed roof truss and floor systems and performed on-site inspections of the assembled product.

In 2003, Justin returned to the province to attend the University of Saskatchewan, where he also took several courses in English literature. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in political studies. He has been a member of the Political Studies and Public Administration Students Society at the University of Saskatchewan.

Throughout his life, Justin has been actively involved in sports. During high school, he participated in provincial volleyball, curling, and track and field events. However, he has been most involved in playing baseball and hockey.

During the summer months, Justin has worked for a variety of businesses, including Marmies Coffee Shop in Herbert and Home Depot in Saskatoon. Most recently, he has held positions with P3 Architecture, Reds Transport, and ICS Courier.

Justin plans to begin a career in the public service. His goal is to work in a position where he can use both the architecture and political-science aspects of his education. In the future, he would like either to attend law school or complete a Master's degree.

Appendix B

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Intern Development Fund, Rawlco Aboriginal Internship Fund, and Interns' Fund-raising Account

Balance Sheet September 30, 2008

Assets	
Cash	\$ 11.01
Due from University of Saskatchewan (Note 1)	13,238.09
Total Assets	\$ 13,249.10
Accumulated Surplus	
Intern Development	\$ 11,382.32
Rawlco Aboriginal Internship	1,855.77
Interns' Fund-raising Account (Note 6)	11.01
Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus	\$ 13,249.10

Statement of Revenues and Expenses Core Program, Intern Development, Rawlco Internship, and Interns' Fund-raising For the Period from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008

	Core Program	Intern Develop- ment	Rawlco Internship (Note 5)	Interns' Fund- Raising Account	Total
Revenues					
Legislative Assembly of Sask.	\$ 81,807.94				\$ 81,807.94
Rawlco Radio			\$ -		-
University of Regina					
o Faculty of Arts	\$ 4,000.00				4,000.00
o Goldman Travel Fund	1,800.00				1,800.00
o International Student Success Office			\$ 3000.00		3,000.00
University of Saskatchewan					
o President's Office	4,000.00				4,000.00
The Cooperators Group	3,000.00				3,000.00
SGI	1,000.00				1,000.00
First Canadian Title	1,000.00				1,000.00
University of Regina Students' Union			\$ 1,500.00		1,500.00
Interns' Fund-raising Initiatives			590.00		590.00
Interest Revenue			1.93		1.93
Interfund Transfer	3,000.00		(3,000.00)		-
Total Revenues (Notes 2, 3, and 4)	\$ 17,800.00	\$ -	\$ 2,091.93		\$101,699.87
Expenses					
Academic Director – Honorarium	\$ 10,487.19				\$ 10,487.19
Interns – Scholarship	56,000.00	\$ -			56,000.00
Travel – Director	3,001.99				3,001.99
Travel – Interns	4,383.49	\$ 17,174.99	-	\$ 2,080.92	23,639.40
Intern Selection (Note 7)	3,116.25				3,116.25
Administrative and Other Expenses	4,819.02		-	-	4,819.02
Total Expenses	\$81,807.94	\$ 17,174.99	\$ -	\$ 2,080.92	\$101,063.85
Surplus/(Deficit)	Nil	\$ 625.01	\$ -	\$11.01	\$ 636.02

Notes to Financial Statements:

1. All cash for the Intern Development Fund and for the Rawlco Aboriginal Internship Fund are being held, on behalf of the program, by the University of Saskatchewan.
2. The interns organized a fund-raising event to provide supplementary financing for their comparative study tour. A “steak night” for members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and other supporters of SLIP was held on April 1, 2008. The event generated a surplus of \$590.00 for the interns. These funds can be used to finance entry to museums, side-tours to significant points of interest, or attendance at cultural or sporting events occurring during their comparative study tour.
3. The Program received in-kind support from the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (hosting a welcoming reception for the interns in January 2008 and providing opportunities to participate in the Institute's programs) and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (providing meals during the interns' attendance at the Association's annual convention). The value of this in-kind support is not included in the SLIP financial statements.
4. As registered students at the University of Regina, three of the interns were eligible to apply for travel grants from the University of Regina Students' Union, the International Student Success Office, and the Goldman Travel Fund. These amounts were directly granted to the interns. With the exception of the Goldman Travel Fund, these grants were deposited into the Interns' Fund-raising Account. The Goldman Travel Fund's grant was deposited directly to the Intern Development Fund. All amounts from these grants were used to finance eligible comparative study travel expense incurred by the University of Regina's interns through the Intern Development Fund. Similar sources of travel funding were not identified for the intern who was registered at the University of Saskatchewan.
5. A Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern was not identified for 2008. Therefore, no funding was provided by Rawlco Radio for that year. Rawlco Radio has agreed to provide funding for a Rawlco Intern in 2009.
6. An account held by the Affinity Credit Union is used to manage the interns' fund-raising activities. At the end of the fiscal year, the account had a balance of \$11.01 which consisted of the account's \$5.00 membership fee and \$6.01 in cash available for use in a future year.
7. Intern selection expenses pertain to the travel, accommodation, and meal costs associated with interviewing candidates for the 2009 internship. These costs were incurred in 2007-08 by candidates and by members of the Program's selection committee.

Appendix C

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2008 ORIENTATION PROGRAM

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns and provided briefing information on their agencies and responsibilities. These meetings occurred during the orientation component of the 2008 program.

Mr. Cam Baker, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2003)
Ms. Melissa Bennett, Legislative Librarian
Mr. Marv Bernstein, Children's Advocate
Mr. John Brand, Director of Advocacy Services, Children's Advocate Office
Ms. Kathy Burianyk, Committee Researcher, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Mr. Lorne Calvert, Leader of the Opposition
Mr. Michel Carpentier, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2006)
Mr. Fabian Contreras, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2004)
Mr. Bill Cooper, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2003)
Mr. Al Dennett, Executive Director, Department of Finance
Ms. Raelynn Douglas, Director, Performance Management Branch, Ministry of Finance
Mr. Gary Dickson, Information and Privacy Commissioner
Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman
Mr. Gerald Gerrand, Q.C., Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Ms. Justine Gilbert, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2007)
Mr. Cole Goertz, Government House Business and Research
Ms. Terry Gudmundson, Executive Director, Government House Business
Ms. Clare Isman, Chair, Public Service Commission
Ms. Gwen Jacobson, Director, Office of Protocol and Honours
Mr. Viktor Kaczkowski, Committee Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Pat Kolesar, Assistant Legislative Librarian
Ms. Iris Lang, Clerk Assistant (Committees), Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Dr. Howard Leeson, Senior Policy Fellow, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Mr. Stewart Low, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2006)
Mr. Murray Mandryk, Saskatchewan News Network
Mr. Jim Marshall, Chief Economist, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Mr. Rick Mantey, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Clerk of the Executive Council
Dr. Gregory Marchildon, Director, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Mr. Kim McKechnie, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2004)
Ms. Ginette Michaluk, Assistant Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services
Mr. Kevin O'Fee, Manager, Dialogue and Public Consultation, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Mr. Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer
Ms. Jessica Paul, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2002)
Ms. Leslie Polson, Director of Reference Services, Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Mr. Greg Putz, Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Brenda Righetti, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Planning Unit
Ms. Deb Saum, Executive Director, Office of Protocol and Honours
Dr. David Smith, Senior Policy Fellow, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Ms. Rhiannon Stromberg, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2005)

Mr. Kyle Toffan, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2005)

Hon. Don Toth, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Hon. Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan

Mr. Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Ms. Margaret Woods, Clerk Assistant, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Appendix D

PARTICIPANTS DURING 2008 INTERNS' COMPARATIVE STUDY TOUR

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns when they traveled to Ottawa, London, and Belfast (from April 14 - 30, 2008) as part of the SLIP's intern development component.

Ottawa

Ms. Amanda Aziz, Chairperson, Canadian Federation of Students
Mr. Paul Bélisle, Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments
Hon. Bill Blaikie, MP Elmwood - Transcona
Mr. Keith Boag, Chief Political Correspondent, CBC Television
Hon. Scott Brison, MP Kings - Hants
Hon. Ralph Goodale, MP Wascana
Mr. Marc Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer
Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons
Hon. Jim Munson, Senator
Mr. Don Newman, Senior Parliamentary Editor, CBC Television
Ms. Kathleen Petty, Host, "The House", CBC Radio
Ms. Emilia Puma, Cultural Affairs Officer, United States Embassy
Hon. Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein, Supreme Court of Canada
Mr. Charles Robert, Principal Clerk, Procedure, Senate of Canada
Hon. Carol Skelton, Minister of national Revenue, MP Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar
Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and
MP Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon
Mr. William Young, Parliamentary Librarian

London

Mr. Shem Baldeosingh, Associate Director, Communications and Research,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr. Nicholas Bouchet, Associate Director, International Coordination,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Ms. Jacqueline Baker, Senior Office Clerk, Houses of Parliament
Ms. Selina Bailey, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Michelle Chow, Canadian High Commission
Mr. Eddie Coleman, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Judith Denwood, Head, Canada Section, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr. Arik Dondi, Head, Sustainable Development Strategy Team, Department of Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs
Mr. Rocio Ferro, Ministry of Justice
Hon. John Grogan, Chair, All-Party Canada Group and MP Llanelli
Mr. Chris Jennings, Ministry of Justice
Lt-Col. Alexander Matheson, Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood
Mr. Christian Moon, Head, Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrats

Ms. Jenny Nelson, Secretary, Overseas Office, House of Lords
Ms. Zana Paul, Visits Coordinator, House of Lords
Mr. Glenn Preston, Ministry of Justice
Mr. Steve Priestly, Clerk, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, House of Commons
Ms. Judith Simpson, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Alison Stradling, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Susannah Street, Clerk, Committee Office, House of Lords
Ms. Vanessa Watling, Ministry of Justice
Ms. Emma Webbon, Second Clerk, European Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons

Belfast

Mr. Douglas Bain, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland
Mr. Maurice Bodkin, Machinery of Government, Office of the First Minister and
Deputy First Minister
Ms. Christine Darrah, External Liaison Office, Northern Ireland Assembly Secretariat
Mr. Alan Doherty, Legislative Liaison Officer, Department of Regional Development
Ms. Deirdre Griffith, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
Mr. Danny Kennedy, Deputy Leader, Ulster Unionist Party and MLA Newry & Armagh
Ms. Kate McCullough, Northern Ireland Assembly
Mr. Owen McNulty, External Liaison Office
Ms. Dawn Purvis, MLA, Belfast East
Mr. Martin Wilson, External Liaison Office, Northern Ireland Assembly Secretariat

Appendix E

PARTICIPANTS DURING 2008 INTERNS' MEETINGS AND EVENTS WITHIN SASKATCHEWAN

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns at various times during their internship. These meetings occurred during the 2008 interns' in-province tours and were part of the SLIP's intern development component. Further details on these meetings are provided in Appendix G.

His Worship Mayor Don Atchinson, City of Saskatoon
The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
Mr. Vern Faulkner, Editor, Prince Albert Daily Herald
His Worship Mayor Pat Fiacco, City of Regina
Mr. John Gormley, Host, John Gormley Live, Rawlco Radio
Ms. Amber Jones, Leader, Green Party of Saskatchewan
Ms. Pam Leyland, President, Rawlco Radio
Mr. Andrew North, General Manager, Globe Theatre
Ms. Linda Nosbush, Social Development Officer, City of Prince Albert
Mr. Ron Rucks, President, Local 1120, Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada
His Worship Mayor Jim Scarro, City of Prince Albert

Appendix F

2008 SLIP INTERNS' REPORT ON THEIR COMPARATIVE STUDY TOUR

Prepared by
Patrick Button, Avery Kelly, Dwayne Meisner, and Justin Redekop

Our comparative study trip was an amazing experience. For most of us, it was our first time visiting Europe. We were surprised with how much we learned and saw by the end of the trip. This year, the trip took us to Ottawa for four weekdays, London (England) for four weekdays and a weekend, and Belfast for three weekdays and a weekend.

Ottawa

Our first meeting in Ottawa was with the Chief Electoral Officer Mark Mayrand. Our meeting with him was supposed to be in the afternoon, but he called us to reschedule to have a morning meeting. What we realized later was that he was planning to raid the Conservative Party headquarters that afternoon, which was why he had to move the meeting! We didn't know this, of course, until we went to Question Period that afternoon.

Another highlight of the trip was meeting Kathleen Petty, the host of CBC Radio's "The House", Chief Political Correspondent Keith Boag, and Don Newman, host of "Politics with Don Newman". We asked them about their approaches to political journalism and discussed Saskatchewan Politics. We also got a tour of the CBC facility.

We met with many notable public figures such as Jack Layton, Saskatchewan MPs Ralph Goodale and Carol Skelton, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl, Supreme Court Justice Marshall Rothstein, Senator Jim Munson, key parliamentary staff, and officials from the UK and US embassies.



London

London was a very fascinating place for all of us. There was so much to see, do, and learn that it was almost overwhelming. The most notable part of the trip was spending a day at the Palace of Westminster. We got a tour of this amazing building and had lunch with two of the clerks in the Stranger's dining room. It was one of the nicest meals many of us have ever had. We were able to meet with committee clerks from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. It was interesting to watch Question Time as well, which differed significantly from what we were used to in Saskatchewan and Ottawa.

After hearing so much about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from Monique Lovatt, it was great to spend part of a day at the CPA secretariat office. We discussed the CPA with Shem Baldeoosingh and Nicholas Bouchet and joined them and their co-workers for lunch. The CPA staff were the friendliest group we met on our trip.

In London we also visited Canada House in Trafalgar Square. We were given a full tour of the



Canadian provincial and territorial flags
hanging from Canada House

House, and we talked about UK-Canada relations with one of the senior members of the foreign service.

In addition, we met with officials at the Foreign Commonwealth Office, the Department of Justice, and the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. We met MP Josh Grogan of the Labour Party, and Christian Moon of the Liberal Democrats, who was in charge of the party's policy projects team.

Belfast

Belfast was a friendly and relaxing place to visit after busy London. Northern Ireland was very beautiful (the grass is actually greener there) and our experience was very memorable.

We spent the majority of our time at Stormont Estate, home of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Our first meeting was with Christine Darrah and Martin Wilson, the Bill Clerk, who explained the procedures and committees of the assembly. We met with Kate McCullough afterwards who gave us a presentation about the assembly.

We also met with the Chief Electoral Officer, who explained the progress Northern Ireland has made to having stable elections. We met officials from the Department of Regional Development and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. We had an interesting time talking with Dawn Purvis, the only assembly member of the Progressive Unionist Party. It was enlightening to hear her perspective of women in Northern Ireland politics.



Stormont Estate

Although our trip was about two and a half weeks, it didn't seem long enough and before we knew it, we were back in Saskatchewan. We all wish we could go back to Ottawa and the UK some day. We were very privileged to go on such a great study trip and we can't wait to hear where the 2009 interns will go!

Appendix G

2008 SLIP INTERNS' REPORT ON THEIR MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Prepared by
Avery Kelly and Dwayne Meisner

Orientation, Regina (January 7-18)

The first two weeks of the internship program were a whirlwind tour that placed us in the center of provincial government and introduced us to the basic functions of the Legislative Assembly. We met with the Premier, Brad Wall, and the Leader of the Opposition, Lorne Calvert, and they told us candidly about the transition they were both experiencing as the Saskatchewan Party settled into government and the NDP adjusted to its new role in opposition. We met with MLAs from both sides of the House to discuss and decide which intern would work with which member.

Early in the second week, the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy hosted a reception, during which various guests from the Legislative Building, the University of Regina, and others were introduced to the program. There were refreshments, a few short speeches, and a chance for guests to get to know the interns. SLIP extends thanks to SIPP for a great afternoon.

The majority of our time in orientation was spent talking with key people in the civil service. We were introduced to the officials of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who told us about their roles and functions both in and out of the chamber, and who taught us important principles about government processes.

We met with each of Saskatchewan's independent Legislative Officers, such as the Ombudsman and the Chief Electoral Officer, and they described to us the meanings and processes of their "watchdog" functions. Over the course of the first two weeks of the internship, we were introduced to a wide variety of people who work in the Legislative Building, from Executive Council to the cafeteria and everyone in between. Orientation came to an end after the interns were sworn in by the Speaker, the Hon. Don Toth, in his office.

Northern Saskatchewan Economic Summit, Prince Albert (January 29-31)

One of the 2007 SLIP interns, Kiley Frantik, arranged for this year's interns to attend the first annual Northern Saskatchewan Economic Summit in Prince Albert, from January 29-31. The theme of the summit was "The North: Unleashed".

On the coldest week of January, we travelled to Prince Albert to observe this event. Government, business and community leaders gathered to exchange ideas, build networks, and attend informative presentations, which focused on Northern Saskatchewan's economic opportunities. Some were about specific enterprises, such as tourism, uranium development, diamond exploration, and bio-fuel technology. Others



concerned the challenges that northern communities face, particularly the shortage of educational opportunities and skilled labour. The proportion of the population between the ages of 15 and 24 is booming, but many lack the education they would need to be fully involved in the growing northern economy.

One major theme that ran throughout the summit was the need for business, government, and community organizations to collaborate, in order to balance economic development with social development. In addition to the recognized duty of industry and government to consult, there was a universal recognition that the First Nations communities in the north, both need and deserve to have a stake in these new opportunities.

On Thursday, January 31, we met with four key people in the Prince Albert community. First was a visit to City Hall, where we had a visit with Mayor Jim Scarrow in his office. Then, we met Linda Nosbush, the city's Social Development Manager, who treated us to a tea party in her office. She told us about the Prince Albert community's integrative approaches toward such challenges as poverty, addictions, and homelessness. She has seen many community groups come together in cooperation that usually do not interact with each other in urban communities. The efforts of a group of organizations in Prince Albert have caused significant improvements in the community.

We met with Ron Rucks, the President of Local 1120 of the Communications, energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada. He told us some of the details surrounding issues with the pulp mill, Domtar, and the provincial government. Finally, we met with Vern Faulkner, editor of the Prince Albert Daily Herald.

Prince Albert and the surrounding northern communities have both unique economic opportunities, and complex sets of challenges. However, the integrative approach that is being developed by these communities provides a fascinating model that is worth studying for anyone interested in social development.

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association Convention, Regina (February 3-6)

This year's annual convention of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) was held at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina, and we as SLIP interns were given the opportunity to attend the convention, as have interns in the past.

Having recently returned from our adventure in Prince Albert, we arrived at the SUMA convention on the second day (Monday, February 4), just in time for the official opening ceremony. The Lieutenant Governor, the Premier, the Mayor of Regina and others addressed the crowd of close to five hundred people, who for the next two days would be attending a series of meetings and presentations, all around the theme of "Strength Through Diversity".

Presentations at the SUMA Convention included one by Mark McLeod that analyzed the role of municipalities in the changing economy, and a keynote address by Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos first Nations in British Columbia, who challenged municipalities to work with First Nations leaders toward finding solutions to social problems. Among the meetings we attended was the annual general meeting, in which SUMA members voted on the annual budget and a number of resolutions and amendments.

There was also a “Dialogue with Ministers” session, a set of open discussions spread throughout the convention centre, in which Cabinet Ministers spoke with SUMA delegates about matters relating to their Ministries. The interns split up and observed different sessions. Following this was the annual highlight of the SUMA Convention, the “Bear Pit”. Gathering in the main convention room, the Premier and Cabinet sat on the stage and responded to questions from SUMA delegates.

Government House, Regina (February 6)

On Wednesday, February 6, we met the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart. But before that, we had a full tour of Government House, one of the most impressive heritage buildings in Regina. Although Government House had fallen into disuse after World War II, in the 1970s much work was done to restore the 19th century elegance of the building as a museum of Saskatchewan’s history. In 2005, an additional wing was added to accommodate events, but most of the original house is maintained in as close to its original form as possible. A tour of Government House is a step back into the 19th century.

At the end of this tour, we were treated to a convivial meeting with the Lieutenant Governor, who told us about the role of his office in the Saskatchewan government. As one of the individuals responsible for the creation of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, he showed a genuine interest in the program and in each of the interns. He told us stories about his visit with Queen Elizabeth II and his historical research into Walter Scott, Saskatchewan’s first Premier.

Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, Various Events, Regina

One of the benefits of being in SLIP is that the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP) periodically invites us to events, mostly lectures that focus on some aspect of public policy. This year we went to a number of SIPP events, and what follows is a brief summary of three of these.

March 4, 2008 – Dr. John Richards from Simon Fraser University delivered a lecture called “Addressing the Education Gap: Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal People in Canada”. Utilizing graphs on Power Point, he referred to statistics concerning the educational achievements of Canadian students, categorized as First Nations, Métis, or non-Aboriginal, and as male or female. The statistics consistently showed that non-Aboriginal students complete high school at a higher rate: almost half of Aboriginal and Métis aged 25 to 44 do not have a high school diploma, compared to one in six non-Aboriginal students. His research also demonstrated that people living in impoverished surroundings typically do not do as well as people in more affluent surroundings. Dr. Richards’ basic argument was that in order for social problems, such as poverty and low employment rates, to be solved, K-12 education must be more of a priority.

March 13, 2008 – Sponsored by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, we attended their first Tansley Lecture, and the speaker was David R. Zussman, a civil servant with extensive experience, who spoke about “The New Governing Balance: Politicians and Public Servants in Canada”. He discussed some of the reasons why conflicts sometimes exist between governments and the public service, and recalled some of the challenges he had faced when he was in charge of the transition team in Jean Chretien’s new government in 1993. Zussman suggested that although civil servants have the duty to warn politicians of consequences, they

must be willing to allow the politicians' will to prevail; yet politicians need to be trained to better understand the civil service. After an informative lecture, a dinner was served and there was an awards ceremony for the Graduate School of Public Policy.

March 28, 2008 – Attending another SIPP event, we heard Dr. Tom Flanagan from the University of Calgary, who lectured on "Conservatism: The End of an Era?" which he clarified meant the end of an era for conservatism, not the end of conservatism. Drawing from his latest book, *Harper's Team*, Flanagan discussed some of the recent history of conservatism in Canada, going back to the 1950s, and gradually coming to the present. He reflected on the successes of fiscal conservatism: the drive for balanced budgets, lower taxes, and de-regulation of the economy, but also on the failures of social conservatism since the 1970s. Despite this, fiscal conservatism has become the conventional wisdom within Canadian politics, so Flanagan proposed the question: is there anything left to do? He concluded that the problems of the future are more biological than economic, such as the environment and a falling birth rate, and that governments' approaches have been largely incremental. Flanagan presented a persuasive argument that conservatism in Canada is passing into a new era.

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Convention, Regina (March 10-13)

Every year, SLIP interns attend the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), which this year was held at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina. Hundreds of delegates from rural municipalities throughout the province gathered to attend meetings and workshops, and to view the trade show.

Registration for the SARM Convention began on Monday night, but the official opening ceremonies were held on Tuesday morning. The Lieutenant Governor gave the opening address and presented the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan to one of the delegates. Also addressing the delegates were Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco, SARM President David Marit, and Premier Brad Wall.

Wednesday morning was the annual highlight of the convention, the "Bear Pit", in which the provincial Cabinet sat on the stage and answered questions from delegates. Some of the major recurring themes included infrastructure and highways, school closures, and flooding lakes – these and other questions gave us a glimpse into some of the major issues surrounding Saskatchewan's rural communities.



The SARM Convention also included various workshops and routine business – delegates voted on resolutions, elected the President and Vice-President, and listened to presentations by key members of the provincial government. Because the spring session of the Saskatchewan Legislature began on the same day as the convention, we were unable to attend every meeting, but before we left, we asked some of SARM's board members if we could pose for a picture wearing their signature brown jackets – a request that they were happy to oblige.

Second Annual SLIP Steak Night, Regina (April 1)

April 1 was the day of the second annual SLIP Steak Night. This year's event was held at Bushwakker Brew Pub on Dewdney Avenue in Regina. The event was organized as a fundraiser for the interns' comparative study tour, which this year took us to Ottawa, London (England), and Belfast, and it also provided MLAs with an enjoyable break.

Because it was on a Tuesday, the MLAs who joined us for this event did not stay for very long, returning to the Legislative Assembly for the evening session. Nevertheless, quite a few members came and enjoyed a meal of steak, Caesar salad, fries, and a drink. We sold 73 tickets to Members of the Legislative Assembly, staff at the Legislative Building, former interns, family and friends. The event was organized by Justin Redekop, and it was an absolute success, raising over \$500 that helped pay for fun events during the comparative study tour. In addition to our meetings in the UK, we went to the Tower of London and a Björk concert in Belfast.

Meeting with His Worship Mayor Pat Fiacco, City of Regina (April 1)

We were also able to meet with Mayor Pat Fiacco on April 1. We set up our meeting with him by emailing the mayor's office. He was pleased to meet with us and has met with previous interns before us. During our hour or so meeting we talked about federal-provincial-municipal relations, taxation, housing, and life in Regina. Our meeting was also attended by a local high school student who had won a day with the mayor by writing an essay about what she would do were she Mayor.

Mayor Fiacco was genuinely candid with us and we were happy to have the opportunity to meet with him.

Trip to Saskatoon to meet with Rawlco and Community Leaders (May 27)

On May 27, we travelled to Saskatoon to meet with controversial radio talk show host John Gormley, as well as Pam Leyland, President of Rawlco Radio. Rawlco Radio has been a generous supporter of SLIP for three years, providing full funding for the Rawlco Aboriginal Intern placement, a fifth intern placement within SLIP, designated for an outstanding student of Aboriginal or Métis descent.

We also set up meetings with Amber Jones, newly elected leader of the Saskatchewan Green Party and Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison.

Amber Jones: Leader, Saskatchewan Green Party

Upon arriving in Saskatoon, we met with Amber Jones, leader of the Saskatchewan Green Party at the Living Room coffee shop on Broadway Avenue. There we spent almost two hours talking with Amber about Saskatchewan Politics, women in politics and SLIP.

As a newly elected leader Ms. Jones was eager to tell us about her young party's policies. Armed with a background in science, Ms. Jones made compelling arguments in favour of slow and managed economic and resource development, with sustainability as top priority. Ms. Jones explained that Green politics are not the radical policies sometimes attributed to environmentalists, rather they are based in managed growth, fiscal conservatism, and democratic reform.

Ms. Jones also related to us how the Green party hopes to grow in Saskatchewan in the next few years. The Green Party is a small grass roots party in Saskatchewan but as environmental issues become front and center in the minds of Canadians, the greens are poised to capitalize on interest from people of all political backgrounds. With a limited budget, and only a few hundred card carrying party members, the Green Party of Saskatchewan intends on using alternative medias li! the internet to get their message out.

Ms. Jones was also interested in hearing about SLIP and the opportunity we have as interns to experience politics first hand in the legislature. We enjoyed our meeting with Ms. Jones as we rarely get to meet with community leaders our own age.

Rawlco Radio: John Gormley and Pam Leyland

After much planning we were finally able to travel to Saskatoon to meet with SLIP sponsors at Rawlco Radio. Rawlco's sponsorship is important to SLIP so we're grateful for the opportunity to thank Ms. Leyland in person and also to hear a little about the company.

When we arrived at Rawlco's headquarters in Saskatoon we were treated to a full tour of their facilities, studios, executive offices and advertising areas. Rawlco operated numerous radio stations throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta and it was interesting to see how everything is broadcast.

After our tour we had the opportunity to meet with radio host John Gormley and Ms. Leyland together and then had further time with just Mr. Gormley. With Mr. Gormley we talked about the challenges of hosting a highly political radio show as well as the role of the media in politics. Mr. Gormley told us how he got started in radio and some of his many experiences in reporting on the government of Saskatchewan. He told us that he loves a scandal and considers himself a political news junkie!

Ms. Leyland took the time to tell us how Rawlco started out as a small family business and was slowly built into one of the biggest media franchises in Western Canada. Ms. Leyland worked her way up through Rawlco and has done nearly every job there is within the company so she serves as a wealth of knowledge about radio and media.

City of Saskatoon: His Worship Mayor Don Atchison

Our meeting with Mayor Atchison was short but interesting. In response to a question about property taxes Mayor Atchison told us the interesting story of the Saskatoon land bank and how this policy has provided economic stability to the city. The Mayor used other similar examples to draw comparisons between Regina and Saskatoon.

We asked Mayor Atchison about housing, taxation, transportation and urban sprawl and we quickly realized that the Mayor of Saskatoon is not only dedicated to his city and its future, but he is also knowledgeable about its issues. Mayor Atchison answered all our questions about municipal-provincial-federal relations, explaining that he prefers quiet diplomacy to publicly rattling his cup. He told us all about his plans for a light rail transportation system that would use old rail lines in and around Saskatoon and even divulged his fantasy of having the largest building in the world in Saskatoon.

All in all, we were pleased to have such an interesting day in Saskatoon, due in large part to Mayor Atchison.

